



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: MICA PERRY

PHONE: 317-232-7610

EMAIL: [mperry@cji.in.gov](mailto:mperry@cji.in.gov)

## **The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods to Co-Host Regional Crime Summit**

INDIANAPOLIS, (September 7, 2006) – The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods are hosting a Regional Crime Summit on September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> to address the recent surge in crime activity in central Indiana.

"The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute is proud to co-host the Regional Crime Summit. The safety and well-being of the Indiana public is a top priority for Governor Daniels as well as ICJI. The goal of the summit is to generate a wealth of ideas and produce action plans through collaborations and partnerships with the participating counties of central Indiana," said Michael Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Scott Newman, president and CEO of Strand Analytical Laboratories, and Susan Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, are the scheduled keynote speakers on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> respectively. Newman will discuss crime and DNA initiatives and Brooks will address gun and gang violence from a federal perspective.

"Criminals who commit gun, drug, or gang crimes don't pay attention to county boundaries. Their focus is on greed, making a profit, and establishing turf. Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods is proud to sponsor a summit where intelligence will be shared and strategies will be developed, all with the common goal of keeping all neighborhoods in central Indiana safer," said Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney.

As of today, Indianapolis (Marion County) has already recorded 102 homicides nearing the 2002-2005 year-end totals, which ranged from 105-109 homicides. If current trends continue, during September-December, Indianapolis (Marion County) will approach the 1997 peak of 157 homicides.

Brainstorming sessions for the summit will explore the topics of methamphetamine, gangs, drug interdiction, the role of federal agencies, offenders and jail overcrowding.

More than 40 local, state and federal agencies will be represented at the summit. Attendees include law enforcement officials and policy makers from Marion, Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Shelby, Johnson, Morgan and Hendricks Counties.

*The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety and victim services. ICJI develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies. For more information, visit [www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji).*

*Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federally-funded anti-gun initiative managed locally by the United States Attorney's Office, Southern Indiana District under the leadership of U.S. Attorney Susan Brooks. Project Safe Neighborhoods partners with local law enforcement officials and community organizations to fund or promote projects that directly lower gun violence.*